

CLAIMS:

1. An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip having circuits comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a contact region by conductive traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip and a y direction parallel to the width of the sensor strip.  
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2. The article of claim 1 wherein at least one circuit is L-shaped.  
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3. The article of claim 1 wherein at least one trace has at least one 90° bend.
4. The article of claim 1 wherein the electrode region and contact region are off-set such that they form an L shape, the interior of which shape forms an edge of the sensor strip and  
15 wherein the electrode region protrudes beyond the contact region in the x direction.
5. The article of claim 1 wherein the circuits are located in an active portion and the article further comprises an inactive portion.  
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6. The article of claim 5 wherein the inactive portion comprises a handling tab.
7. The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is bent at one or both ends.  
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8. The article of claim 6 wherein the handling tab is textured.
9. The article of claim 5 wherein the active portion is about 3 mm to about 10 mm wide and about 5 mm to about 25 mm long.  
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10. An article comprising an electrochemical sensor strip comprising a backing material,

- an active portion laminated to a portion of the backing material,  
the active portion comprising  
a substrate,  
a circuit comprising electrodes in an electrode region connected to contact pads in a  
5 contact region by conductive traces wherein the electrode region is off-set from the contact  
region in both an x direction parallel to the length of the sensor strip and a y direction parallel  
to the width of the sensor strip,  
a polymeric layer comprising a channel-forming material over the electrodes, and  
a hydrophilic layer over the channel-forming material.
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11. The article of claim 10 wherein a reagent layer is applied on the electrodes.
12. The article of claim 1 further comprising a fluid-wicking channel that extends across  
the length of the electrode region and wherein the length of the electrode region is less than  
15 one-half of the width of the circuit.
13. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel terminates at one end with a  
fluid sample entrance, wherein the fluid sample entrance traverses the end of the fluid-  
wicking channel at an angle of less than 90°.
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14. The article of claim 13 wherein the angle is 45°.
15. The article of claim 14 wherein the fluid sample entrance is 1.4 times an entrance that  
intersects the fluid-wicking channel at an angle of 90°.
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16. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel is open to the atmosphere at  
both ends.
17. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel transports fluid to the  
30 electrodes by capillary action.

18. The article of claim 12 wherein the fluid-wicking channel has a volume of less than about one microliter.
- 5      19. The article of claim 1 wherein the sensor strip is a blood glucose sensor strip.
20. An article comprising a blood glucose test kit comprising the electrochemical sensor strip of claim 19 and a glucose measuring device having a slot that receives the sensor strip article wherein when the sensor strip is fully inserted into the slot the electrode region of the  
10 sensor remains outside of the slot.